U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-068-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-65555 (#8613B M29 496), COC-65563 (#8610D J22 497), COC 65564 (#8607A G02 497), COC 65555 (#8609C I29 496), COC 57685 (#8612B L19 496), COC 64815 (#8616A P18 496)

PROJECT NAME: Six (6) APD's--#8613B M29 496, #8610D J22 497, #8607A G02 497, #8609C I29 496, #8612B L19 496, & #8616A P18 496

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4S, R96W, SWSW sec.29 (#8613B M29 496), T4S, R97W, NWSE sec.22 (#8610D J22 497), T4S, R97W, sec. 2 (#8607A G02 497), T4S, R96W, NESE sec.29 (#8609C I29 496), T4S, R96W, sec 19 (#8612B L19 496), T4S, R96W, SESE sec 18 (#8616A P18 496), 6th P.M

APPLICANT: ENCANA OIL & GAS (USA) INC.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): Lease stipulations: Timing stip on leks 4/15-7/7 if over 10% impact within 2 mi. of ID lek. Timing stip on game mgmt. 5/15-8/15 unit if over 10% within GMU.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction:

Proposed Action: For Well # 8616A P18 496 applicant proposes to construct well pad on private surface, upgrade (how many feet wide, including traveling surface and borrow area?) existing two track road for 1.96 miles (7.13 ac.), and drill gas well. Approximate total surface disturbance on BLM would be 7.13 acres. The total disturbance on the access road is included in this wells figure. If this well is not built prior to the others listed then the acres disturbed would need to be adjusted to include the additional portion of the access road analyzed. Well #'s 8612B L19 496, 8609C I29 496 and 8613B M29 496 the disturbance for the access road is figured only to well # 8616A P18 496.

For Well #, 8612B L19 496 applicant proposes to construct well pad (2.5 ac.), upgrade existing two track road for .93 miles (3.38 ac.), and drill gas well. Approximate total surface disturbance on BLM would be 5.88 acres.

For Well # 8609C I29 496 applicant proposes to construct well pad on private surface, upgrade existing two track road for .55 miles (2.0 ac), and drill gas well. Approximate total surface disturbance on BLM would be 2.0 acres.

For well #8613B M29 496, applicant proposes to construct well pad, upgrade existing two track road and drill gas well. No surface acreage on BLM will be disturbed.

For well #8610D J22 497, applicant proposes to construct access road (100' x 30'= 0.07ac.), construct well pad (2.5 ac), and drill gas well. Approximate total surface disturbance on BLM would be 2.57 acres.

For Well # 8607A G02 497, applicant proposes to construct well pad on private surface, upgrade existing two track road for 5.18 miles (19 ac.) on BLM, and drill gas well. Approximate total surface disturbance on BLM would be 19 acres.

If a well is a producer, area not needed for production would be contoured and seeded. If a well is a non-producer, the well would be plugged and all disturbed areas would be contoured and seeded. Vegetation would be established to the satisfaction of the surface owner.

No pipeline routes proposed at this time.

No Action Alternative: No surface disturbing or drilling activity would occur.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION: To respond to the applicant's proposal to exercise lease rights and develop hydrocarbon reserves.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

> Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).
>
> Date Approved: July 1, 1997
>
> Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5
>
> Decision Language: "Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: There are no special designation air sheds or non-attainment areas nearby that would be affected by the proposed action. During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: No additional mitigation is needed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Well #8607A well pad and access road: The proposed well pad location and access road have been inventoried at the Class III (100%) pedestrian level (O'Brien 2004, Compliance Dated 4/15/2004, Pennefather-O'Brien and Hall 2004, Compliance Dated 5/27/2004) With one historic site located along the Scandard Gulch access road.

Well #8609C well pad and access road: have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Brogan 2004, Compliance Dated 7/2/2004, Slaughter 2003 Compliance Dated 1/16/2004) with two historic resources located along the access road at the northern and southern ends of the road.

Well #8610D well pad and access road: The proposed well pad and access road have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Brogan 2004, Compliance Dated 4/28/2004, Pennefather-O'Brien and Hall 2004, Compliance Dated 5/27/2004) with no cultural resources identified on the well pad. However one historic site was identified on the access route.

Well #8612B well pad and access road: have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Brogan 2004, Compliance Dated 7/2/2004, Slaughter 2003 Compliance Dated 1/16/2004) with one historic resource located along the access road at the northern end of the road.

Well #8613B well pad and access road: have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Brogan 2004, Compliance Dated 7/2/2004, Slaughter 2003 Compliance Dated 1/16/2004) with one historic resource located along the access road at the northern end of the road.

Well #8616A well pad and access road: have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Brogan 2004, Compliance Dated 7/2/2004, Slaughter 2003 Compliance Dated 1/16/2004) with one historic resource located along the access road at the northern end of the road.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Well #8607A well pad and access road: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to known cultural resources. Otherwise, if the site is not avoided there is a rather unimportant loss of historic data from the regional database.

Well #8609C well pad and access road: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to known cultural resources. Otherwise, if the site is not avoided there is some loss of historic data from the regional database.

Well #8610D well pad and access road: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to known cultural resources. Otherwise, if the site is not avoided there is a rather unimportant loss of historic data from the regional database.

Well #8612B well pad and access road: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to known cultural resources. Otherwise, if the site is not avoided there is some loss of historic data from the regional database.

Well #8613B well pad and access road: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to known cultural resources. Otherwise, if the site is not avoided there is some loss of historic data from the regional database.

Well #8616A well pad and access road: If mitigation measures are strictly adhered to there will be no new impacts to known cultural resources. Otherwise, if the site is not avoided there is some loss of historic data from the regional database.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and

immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. Well #8610D well pad and access road: historic site 5RB 4739 is located just west of the proposed Scandard Gulch access road to the well pad. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

4. Well #8607A well pad and access road: historic site 5RB 4739 is located just west of the proposed Scandard Gulch access road to the well pad. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

5. Well #8612B well pad and access road: Historic site 5RB 67 is located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

6. Well #8613B well pad and access road: Historic site 5RB 67 is located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

7. Well #8616A well pad and access road: Historic site 5RB 67 is located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

8. Well #8609C well pad and access road: Historic sites 5RB 67 and 5GF 2455 are located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The sites shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all

construction.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The principal noxious weeds of concern with respect to this proposal are houndstongue, black henbane, and spotted knapweed. The invasive annual grass, cheat grass (Bromus tectorum) is also present on disturbed sites throughout the area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will create significant earthen disturbance which will provide safe sites for the establishment of noxious and invasive species. If these sites are not revegetated, monitored for the occurrence of noxious and invasive species and those species eradicated, there will be a long term negative impact. Further, the affected areas will not meet the Upland Vegetation Standard in the future.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas including all cut and fill slopes with Native seed mixture #6 and monitor all well locations and access roads for a minimum of three years post construction to detect the presence of noxious and invasive species. Eradicate all such species which invade using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: Non-game populations associated with these ranges are widespread and common throughout sagebrush and pinyon-juniper habitats in this Resource Area (e.g., green-tailed and spotted towhee, vesper and lark sparrows). There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Although this action would represent an incremental and longer term reduction in the extent of sagebrush habitat available for migratory bird breeding functions, implementation of this project would have no measurable influence on the abundance or distribution of breeding migratory birds even at the smallest landscape scale.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Incremental reductions of sagebrush rangelands would not occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: None.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species occurring within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive animal species occurring within the project area. Thus, this standard is not applicable.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species occurring within the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: There is no reasonable likelihood that the proposed action or no action alternative would have an influence on the condition or function of Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive plant species. Thus, there would be no effect on achieving the land health standard

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at this site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: Well #8607A is in segment 16, which includes all tributaries to Piceance Creek, from the source to the confluence with the White River except for specific listings in segments 17-20. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. All actions are within the White River watershed. The State has classified this segment as a "Use Protected" reach. Its designated beneficial uses are: Warm Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for three parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0, Fecal Coliform = 2000/100 ml, and 630/100 ml E. coli. This segment retained its Recreation Class 2 designation after sufficient evidence was received that a Recreation Class 1a use was unattainable.

Wells 8612B, 8616A, 8613B, 8609C, and 8610D are in segment 17, which is Stewart Gulch from the sources of the East Middle and West Forks to the confluence with Piceance Creek. Mainstem of Willow Creek from the source to the confluence with Piceance Creek. Mainstem of Fawn Creek from the source to the confluence with Black Sulphur Creek. Mainstem of Dry Fork of the Piceance including all tributaries, wetlands, lakes and reservoirs from the source to the confluence with Piceance Creek. A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. The State has classified this segment as a "Use Protected" reach. Its designated beneficial uses are: Cold Aquatic Life 2, Recreation 2, and Agriculture. The antidegredation review requirements in the Antidegredation Rule, are not applicable to waters designated use-protected. For those waters, only the protection specified in each reach will apply. For this reach, minimum standards for four parameters have been listed. These parameters are: dissolved oxygen = 5.0 mg/l, pH = 6.5 - 9.0 and Fecal Coliform = 2000/100ml and 630/100 ml E. coli. In addition standards for inorganic and metals have also been listed and can be found in the table of stream classifications and water quality standards. This segment retained its Recreation Class 2 designation after sufficient evidence was received that a Recreation Class 1a use was unattainable.

Oil and Gas operations are considered to be a light industrial activity by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. As industrial dischargers the applicant is required to obtain a permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater from these well pads and roads and show how the lessee will prevent sediment from entering the surrounding water ways.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The area where the proposed action is located appears to not be a very well-defined drainage. One problem that could arise

from the proposed action would be an increase in sediment transport. Annual runoff from this watershed is dynamic and dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting the vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause short-term erosion problems and increased sedimentation to Yellow Creek and on down to the White River until successful BMPs have been implemented and prove to be successful. The magnitude of these impacts is dependent on the amount of surface disturbance and climatic conditions during the time the soils are exposed to the elements.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative are not anticipated.

Mitigation: Submit a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge. Apply the following Conditions of Approval, (BMPs) listed in Appendix B, in the White River ROD/RMP to help minimize surface disturbing impacts.

When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the drilling is completed. If well becomes a producing well, the pad will be graded and the topsoil pile will be distributed and seeded to reduce wind and water erosion.

All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

Provide vegetative or artificial stabilization of cut and fill slopes in the design process. Avoid establishment of vegetation where it inhibits drainage from the road surface or where it restricts safety or maintenance.

Eliminate undesirable berms that retard normal surface runoff.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action will not affect water quality or achievement of the Land Health Standard.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: Wells #8612 and #8616 are located in close proximity to the West Fork Stewart Gulch, a perennial stream.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The potential exists for sediment deposition into the West Fork Steward Gulch from road upgrade/pad construction. Compaction

from heavy equipment is also possible. The road upgrade and well will increase the number of vehicles along this stretch of Steward Gulch.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No sedimentation, compaction or increase in traffic would occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: Avoid sediment deposition from construction activities into this stream. The corners of the pad locations shall be at least 50 feet from the stream to prevent fill material from entering the stream.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: This project would not jeopardize the viability of riparian systems. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on riparian systems at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACECs, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, wilderness, or Wild and Scenic Rivers exist within the area affected by the proposed action. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Baseline soils data have been collected for Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties by the NRCS and are published in order III Soil Surveys. These surveys are available for review from the White River Field Office. The table below identifies soil characteristics for the soils encountered from the proposed action

Proposed Action	Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Runoff	Erosion Potential	Depth to Bedrock
Well #8607A	36	Glendive fine sandy loam		Foothills Swale	<4 2-8	Slow	Slight	0-6 6-60
Well #8610D	50	Lamphier-Tampico-Kamack loams	5-60%	Aspen woodlands/Brushy Loam	<2	Medium	High	0-60
Wells #8612B & #8613B	63	Silas loam	1 - 12%	Mountain Swale	0	slow	Slight - very severe	>60
Well #8616A	82	Silas loam	0-8%	Mountain Swale	<2	Medium	Slight to moderate	>60

Proposed Action	Soil Number	Soil Name	Slope	Ecological site	Salinity	Runoff	Erosion Potential	Depth to Bedrock
Well #8610D	56	Parachute-Irigul-Rhone association	25 – 50%	Brushy Loam/ Loamy Slopes	0	Rapid	Very Severe	15-25
Well # 8609C	65	Torriorthents, cool-Rock outcrop complex	35-90%	Pinyon/Juniper	2-4 4-8	Rapid	Very severe	0-2 2-13

Revegetation limitations for these soil types include an arid climate and droughty soil condition. Well location #8609C is on private property, and is located on soils delineated as being susceptible to landslides. Since mass wasting has the ability to affect watersheds down stream, even though this well pad on private it could influence public lands. NSO-1 stipulation description states, the area manager may authorize surface occupancy if an environmental analysis finds the nature of the proposed action could be conditioned so as not to impair the stability of the landslide area. An exception may be granted if a more detailed soil survey, i.e., Order I conducted by a qualified soil scientist finds the soil properties associated with the proposed action are not susceptible to slumping and mass movement. Or site specific modifications may be granted by the Area Manager pending determination that a portion of the soil units meet the following conditions:

1. Inclusions within the soil unit where slopes are less than 35 percent.
2. A more detailed survey identifies and delineates wet areas and sloping rock formations, and the proposed action is designed to avoid those areas.
3. The proposed action utilized land treatments and soil stabilization practices that will demonstrate a high probability of reducing soil loss and preventing degradation of water quality.
4. The proposed action would not cause slumping or mass movement as demonstrated through engineering and design criteria.

The other wells do not have any special delineation assigned to the soils encountered by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: General impacts associated with oil and gas and road development include but are not limited to, loss of topsoil, soil compaction and possible increase in sediment loads to the White River. The primary surface-disturbing impact would be a potential increase in sediment transport from runoff events after the protective vegetative cover has been removed.

Although the well pad for well #8609C is in an area that has been identified as NSO-1, after environmental analysis it was determined to be in an area that would meet conditions 1 (the proposed location is on a 7.5 % slope) and 2 (there are not any wet areas delineated at the proposed well site) listed above. However it is important to recognize the potential for increased erosion and design BMPs, which will minimize this condition. Submitting a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State (Stormwater Discharge Permit) identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge and erosion off of the roads and well pads,

BMPs used to slow runoff, trap sediment and prepare reclaimed areas for seeding would also help reduce soil loss. With an explanation of how these BMPs will be used and implementation of these BMPs, impacts are expected to be short in duration, during the construction phase and for a short time after construction until successful reclamation is achieved.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from not permitting the proposed action.

Mitigation: Submit a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge. In addition, the following COAs from Appendix B, White River ROD/RMP should be applied.

Water bars or dikes shall be constructed on all of the rights-of-way, and across the full width of the disturbed area, as directed by the authorized officer.

Slopes within the disturbed area shall be stabilized by non-vegetative practices designed to hold the soil in place and minimize erosion. Vegetative cover shall be reestablished to increase infiltration and provide additional protection from erosion.

When erosion is anticipated, sediment barriers shall be constructed to slow runoff, allow deposition of sediment, and prevent it from leaving the site. In addition, straining or filtration mechanisms may also contribute to sediment removal from runoff

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The proposed action will have no effect on the soils' ability to meet the land health standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Vegetation in the project area is variable, with the drainages dominated by basin big sagebrush with a grass/forb understory. The uplands are dominated by Wyoming and mountain big sagebrush mixed with Utah serviceberry with a diverse understory of grasses and forbs.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The primary threat to the health of the native plant communities in the project area would be from entry and proliferation of noxious and invasive species initially occurring on unmanaged earthen disturbance created by the project.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Promptly revegetate all disturbed areas including cut and fill slopes with Native seed mixture # 6 and eradicate all noxious/invasive species which occur on site using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* Upland plant communities in the project area currently meet the Standard. These plant communities will continue to meet the Standard if proper proposed mitigation is applied.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There is no aquatic wildlife in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): There is no aquatic wildlife present in the project areas. Thus, there would be no effect on achieving the land health standard.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: Well #8613B: The site is located in a draw on private surface dominated by basin big sagebrush. The surrounding uplands include sparse serviceberry with a pocket of young aspen farther up the draw. The aspen appear to be too young to support woodland nesting raptors. Elevation is approximately 7765 feet. This well falls within a winter concentration area for elk, and normal summer range for elk and mule deer as designated in the White River Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). Additionally, it falls within overall range, a production area, winter range and brood range for greater sage-grouse.

Well #8610D**:** The area is located on a ridge consisting of a mountain shrub community of sagebrush interspersed with serviceberry. Elevation is 8267 feet. The location falls within summer range for mule deer and a winter concentration area for elk. Additionally, it falls within overall range and a production area for greater sage-grouse.

Well #8607A: Located on private surface, this area consists of a contiguous sage park in a valley with pinyon juniper in the uplands adjacent to the pad. Nest potential for raptors is moderate to high in the adjacent pinyon-juniper though no evidence of nesting was observed during a field visit. Elevation for this site is 7270 feet. This site falls within normal winter range for mule deer and a winter concentration area for elk. Additionally, it falls within overall range for greater sage-grouse.

Well #8609C: This site occurs on private surface and consists of sagebrush with some serviceberry. Adjacent uplands consist of serviceberry with young aspen stands. The aspen is too young to support woodland nesting raptors. Elevation is 7675 feet the site falls within

summer range for mule deer and a winter concentration area for elk. Additionally, it falls within overall range, a production area, winter range and brood range for greater sage-grouse.

Well #8612B: This location is on private surface in a narrow draw composed of big sagebrush. Adjacent uplands include rimrock, serviceberry and young pinyon-juniper. The elevation is 7545 feet and the area holds low potential for nesting by raptors. This site falls within a winter concentration area for elk and summer range for mule deer. Additionally, it falls within overall range and a production area for greater sage-grouse.

Well #8616A: This pad is located on BLM land and consists of big sagebrush surrounded by serviceberry and a young patch of aspen in the uplands. No raptor nests were observed during an on-site visit. Elevation for this site is 7427 feet. The location falls within summer range for mule deer and a winter concentration area for elk. Additionally, it falls within overall range and a production area for greater sage-grouse.

All wells, with the exception of Well #8607, fall within a two-mile radius of active and/or historic greater sage-grouse leks.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The construction of this project will result in a long-term increase of road traffic associated with commercial oil/gas related activities. The development of commercial oil/gas facilities results in incremental reductions of winter and summer range habitat for big game. Additionally, it will result in increased activity in an area holding moderate potential for nesting by raptors, as well as an increase in the disturbance from additional road traffic. Furthermore, it will result in the incremental reduction of various habitats for greater sage-grouse, including overall range, production areas, winter range and brood range.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Failure to construct this well package would reduce short-term construction activity levels in this area as well as longer term activity associated with increased road traffic related to commercial oil/gas development. No net loss of big game or sage-grouse habitat would occur at this time or place.

Mitigation: For Well #8607A, if construction and completion activities do not occur between August 15 and February 1, a current raptor survey must be conducted on this site. It is the responsibility of Encana to contact the BLM or a third party contractor to have this survey completed.

All wells, with the exception of Well #8607A, fall within summer range for deer and/or elk. Development is allowed until 10% of the habitat within the Game Management Unit (GMU) is affected, and then a timing limitation will be in affect (TL-09 in the White River Record of Decision and Approved RMP). Once 10% has been affected, no further development will be allowed from May 15 through August 15 (development will be allowed from August 16 through May 14).

All wells in this package involve the removal of at least some sagebrush. Greater sage-grouse are sagebrush obligates and have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Interim reclamation should occur on pads to include the seeding of sagebrush.

Timing limitations (TL-06 in White River ROD and Approved RMP) will apply to all wells in this package except for Well #8607A ("This area encompasses suitable sage grouse nesting habitat associated with individual leks. This stipulation will not take effect until direct and indirect impacts to suitable nesting cover exceeds 10 percent of the habitat available within 2 miles of identified leks. Further development, after this threshold has been exceeded, will not be allowed from April 15 through July 7. Development can occur until 10 percent of the habitat associated with a lek is impacted, from then on, additional activity can occur from July 8 through April 14.").

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): This project would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have no significant consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, or function, nor have any discernible affect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. This public land health standard will thus be met.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: BLM roads 1009, 1000A, 1008A and 1008B as well as private access roads would be affected.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Traffic would be expected to increase during pad construction and drilling phase. No increase or decrease of public access would occur due to the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

Affected Environment: The surface geologic formation of well locations #8609C, #8607A, #8616A, #8613B, and #8612B is alluvium and surface formation for #8610C is Uinta. Encana's targeted zone is in the Mesa Verde. During drilling potential water, oil shale coal, oil and gas resources will be encountered from surface to the targeted zone. This area is identified in the ROD/RMP as available for underground oil shale leasing and development.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The cementing procedure of the proposed actions isolates the formations and will prevent the migration of gas, water, and oil between formations. This includes oil shale and coal zones. However, conventional recovery of the coals is not considered feasible at the depths that are encountered in the wells. Development of these wells will deplete the hydrocarbon resources in the targeted formation. Development of underground mining of the oil shale in and around existing wells may be limited.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: Well #8607A well pad and access road: The proposed well pad and access road is located in an area mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979) but lies down in a narrow drainage where the formation is partially masked. However on the side slopes the formation is likely to be exposed, especially along the edges of the proposed well pad.

Well #8609C well pad and access road: the proposed well pad and road are in an area mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979) but lie mostly in a drainage bottom where the formation may be masked by recent alluvium of unknown depth. The exception is at the outer edges of the pad where the bedrock outcrops on the toe slopes adjacent to the pad.

Well #8610D well pad and access road: The proposed well pad location is in an area mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Category I formation meaning it is a know producer of scientifically important fossil resources. The proposed Scandard Gulch Access road is located in the Uintah Formation from the well pad north for

approximately 1.8 miles before it drops into Scandard Gulch in the southwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 97 West. From that point to the lower (north) end of the Scandard Gulch Access route the road is still in an area mapped as Uintah formation though it may be masked by recent alluvium.

Well #8612B well pad and access road: The proposed well pad location and access road are located in an area mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979). However, since the well pad and the access road are located in the bottom of a drainage it is likely that the underlying bedrock formation is masked by recent alluvial deposits, except at the outer margins of the well pad where it is likely that outcrops of the formation will be exposed on the toe slopes next to the proposed pad.

Well #8613B well pad and access road: the proposed well pad location is located in an area of narrow drainage which is mapped as Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979) though some alluvium may be present at the center stake location. The rest of the proposed pad may involve exposures of bedrock at the outer edges. The access road route us up the drainage bottom which is also mapped as Uintah Formation but it may be masked by alluvial deposition of unknown depth.

Well #8616A well pad and access road: The proposed well pad location and access road are located in an area mapped as the Uintah Formation (Tweto 1979). However, since the well pad and the access road are located in the bottom of a drainage it is likely that the underlying bedrock formation is masked by recent alluvial deposits, except at the outer margins of the well pad where it is likely that outcrops of the formation will be exposed on the toe slopes next to the proposed pad.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: 8607A well pad and access road: If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation, or exposed outcrops of the formation on the canyon walls, to level the well pad, excavate the reserve/blooie pit or cut into an exposure of the bedrock formation to upgrade the Scandard Gulch Access road there is a potential to adversely impact fossil resources.

Well #8609C well pad and access road: If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation, or exposed outcrops of the formation on the canyon walls, to level the well pad, excavate the reserve/blooie pit or cut into an exposure of the bedrock formation to upgrade the access road there is a potential to adversely impact fossil resources.

Well #8610D well pad and access road: If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to level the well pad, excavate the reserve/blooie pit or cut into an exposure of the bedrock formation to upgrade the Scandard Gulch Access road there is a potential to adversely impact fossil resources.

Well #8612B well pad and access road: If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation, or exposed outcrops of the formation on the canyon walls, to level the well pad, excavate the reserve/blooie pit or cut into an exposure of the bedrock formation to upgrade the access road there is a potential to adversely impact fossil resources.

Well #8613B well pad and access road: If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation, or exposed outcrops of the formation on the canyon walls, to level the well pad, excavate the reserve/blooie pit or cut into an exposure of the bedrock formation to upgrade the access road up Cutoff Gulch there is a potential to adversely impact fossil resources.

Well #8616A well pad and access road: If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation, or exposed outcrops of the formation on the canyon walls, to level the well pad, excavate the reserve/blooie pit or cut into an exposure of the bedrock formation to upgrade the access road there is a potential to adversely impact fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: Well #8607A well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location, to excavate the reserve/blooie pit or to upgrade the access road up Scandard Gulch a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

Well #8609C well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

Well #8610D well pad and access road: for the well pad and access road from the well pad north for approximately 1.8 miles before it drops into Scandard Gulch in the southwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 97 West, if it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage. For the access road from the point where it drops into Scandard Gulch in the southwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 97 West to the end of the upgrade in the southwest ¼ of the northwest¼ of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 97 West most construction should be in recent alluviums however, if for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock or to cut into the toe slopes of the ridges above the road then a paleontological monitor shall be required during such excavation.

Well #8612B well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

Well #8613B well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

Well #8616A well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the MTW and Oldland Brothers use areas of the Piceance Mountain (06023) allotment. Both operators use the project area as part of the year round cattle operation. Use on the public lands of this allotment occurs from early May through the end of November on a yearly basis.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The principal impact of the proposed action upon these two operations will be create by traffic, noise and fugitive dust as equipment and servicing trucks use the access roads to these locations. On the locations themselves, all fluid pits should be fenced to BLM specifications including proper H bracing at the fence corners, to prevent livestock entry to these pits. Access roads should be crowned and waterbarred and all disturbed areas revegetated.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There will be no change from the present situation.

Mitigation: Maintain the integrity of all rangeland improvements, including fences and water developments. Access roads should be watered or surfaced with magnesium chloride to eliminate dust and damage to vegetation. All disturbed areas should be revegetated using Native

seed mixture #6 and monitored and treated to prevent the establishment of noxious and invasive species.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: A right-of-way (ROW) will be required for access to these wells.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is for access to wells 8613B X29 496, 8610D X22 497 (ROW COC57262), and 8607A X20 497 (ROW COC58432). Well 8613B X29 496 will require a new right-of-way for access.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative a right-of-way would not be authorized and a different route would have to be found.

Mitigation: None

RECREATION

Affected Environment: Proposed pads 8612B and 8610D occur within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use. Two commercial big game special recreation permit (SRP) areas identified as SRP-45 Oldland & Uphoff and SRP-70 MTW Ranch.

The project areas and the surroundings most closely resemble a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: None, as the area has no legal public access, however, with the introduction of new well pads and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Both SRP 45 and 70 may be impacted if proposed actions occur during the fall big game hunting seasons due to the sights and sounds of the construction traffic as well as the potential dispersal of big game species.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed actions for wells # 8613B X29 496, #8607A X02 497, #8609C X29 496 and #8616A X18 496 are on private surface and do not have a VRM classification. The VRM classification for lands adjacent to the proposed actions is VRM Class III. The proposed actions for wells #8610D X22 497 and #8612B X19 496 are located within a VRM Class III area. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action for well #8613B is located in the bottom of Cutoff Gulch on private property and well #8609C is located in the bottom of the East Fork of the Middle Fork of Stewart Gulch on private property. A casual observer would be able to view the proposed action for well #8613B only by access through private property in Cutoff Gulch or the top of the ridge on a jeep trail between Cutoff Gulch and the East Fork of the Middle Fork of Stewart Gulch. A casual observer would be able to view the proposed action for well #8609C only by access through private property on the East Fork of the Middle Fork of Stewart Gulch. The proposed action for well #8610D is located on a ridge accessed by the existing road in Scandard Gulch between East Willow and the West Fork of Stewart Gulch. A casual observer would be able to view the proposed action from an existing road on Jimmy Ridge, but the distance would be approximately three miles. The proposed actions for wells #8616A and #8612B are located in the bottom of the West Fork of the Middle Fork of Stewart Gulch. A casual observer would be able to view wells #8616A and #8612B only when traveling through private property on the road in the bottom of the West Fork of the Middle Fork of Stewart Gulch. The proposed action for well #8607A is located on private property in the bottom of Scandard Gulch. A casual observer would be able to view well #8607A only when traveling on private property on the road in the bottom of Scandard Gulch. The proposed actions would not dominate the view of the casual observer and the level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low, and the standards of the VRM III classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no environmental impact.

Mitigation: Paint all production equipment Juniper Green to blend with and mimic the surrounding vegetation.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: No cumulative impacts were identified. The White River PRMP/FEIS analyzed cumulative impacts of resource-area-wide oil and gas development.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Mark Hafkenschiel	Range Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Glen Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Glen Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Glen Klingler	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Mark Hafkenschiel	Range Management Specialist	Vegetation
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Mark Hafkenschiel	Range Management Specialist	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2004-068-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the development of Well #1-2 as described in the proposed action, with the mitigation measures listed in the attached Conditions of Approval.

MITIGATION MEASURES: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

3. Well #8610D well pad and access road: historic site 5RB 4739 is located just west of the proposed Scandard Gulch access road to the well pad. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

4. Well #8607A well pad and access road: historic site 5RB 4739 is located just west of the proposed Scandard Gulch access road to the well pad. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

5. Well #8612B well pad and access road: Historic site 5RB 67 is located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

6. Well #8613B well pad and access road: Historic site 5RB 67 is located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

7. Well #8616A well pad and access road: Historic site 5RB 67 is located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The site shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

8. Well #8609C well pad and access road: Historic sites 5RB 67 and 5GF 2455 are located just east of the access road and the site is to be avoided by all road construction. The sites shall be flagged for avoidance with orange construction fence and the site shall be avoided by all construction.

9. Promptly recontour and revegetate all disturbed areas including all cut and fill slopes with Native seed mixture #6.

10. Monitor all well locations and access roads for a minimum of three years post construction to detect the presence of noxious and invasive species. Eradicate all such species which invade using materials and methods approved by the authorized officer.

11. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

12. Submit a copy of the Stormwater Discharge Plan, which is required by the State identifying how BMPs will be used to reduce stormwater discharge.

13. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the drilling is completed. If well becomes a producing well, the pad will be graded and the topsoil pile will be distributed and seeded to reduce wind and water erosion.

14. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

15. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

16. Provide vegetative or artificial stabilization of cut and fill slopes in the design process. Avoid establishment of vegetation where it inhibits drainage from the road surface or where it restricts safety or maintenance.

17. Eliminate undesirable berms that retard normal surface runoff.

18. For Well #8607A, if construction and completion activities do not occur between August 15 and February 1, a current raptor survey must be conducted on this site. It is the responsibility of EnCana to contact the BLM or a third party contractor to have this survey completed.

19. All wells, with the exception of Well #8607A, fall within summer range for deer and/or elk. Development is allowed until 10% of the habitat within the Game Management Unit (GMU) is affected, and then a timing limitation will be in affect (TL-09 in the White River Record of Decision and Approved RMP). Once 10% has been affected, no further development will be allowed from May 15 through August 15 (development will be allowed from August 16 through May 14).

20. All wells in this package involve the removal of at least some sagebrush. Greater sage-grouse are sagebrush obligates and have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Interim reclamation should occur on pads to include the seeding of sagebrush.

21. Timing limitations (TL-06 in White River ROD and Approved RMP) will apply to all wells in this package except for Well #8607A ("This area encompasses suitable sage grouse nesting habitat associated with individual leks. This stipulation will not take effect until direct and indirect impacts to suitable nesting cover exceeds 10 percent of the habitat available within 2 miles of identified leks. Further development, after this threshold has been exceeded, will not be allowed from April 15 through July 7. Development can occur until 10 percent of the habitat associated with a lek is impacted, from then on, additional activity can occur from July 8 through April 14.").

22. Well #8607A well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location, to excavate the reserve/blooie pit or to upgrade the access road up Scandard Gulch a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

23. Well #8609C well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized

officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

24. Well #8610D well pad and access road: for the well pad and access road from the well pad north for approximately 1.8 miles before it drops into Scandard Gulch in the southwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 97 West, if it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage. For the access road from the point where it drops into Scandard Gulch in the southwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ of Section 11, Township 4 South, Range 97 West to the end of the upgrade in the southwest ¼ of the northwest¼ of Section 12, Township 3 North, Range 97 West most construction should be in recent alluviums however, if for any reason it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock or to cut into the toe slopes of the ridges above the road then a paleontological monitor shall be required during such excavation.

25. Well #8612B well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

26. Well #8613B well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage

27. Well #8616A well pad and access road: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to construct a suitably large pad location or to excavate the reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present to assess any fossils that may be exposed. If paleontological materials (fossils) are uncovered during project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities that might further disturb such materials, and contact the authorized officer (AO). The operator and the authorized officer will consult and determine the best option for avoiding or mitigating paleontological site damage.

28. Maintain the integrity of all rangeland improvements, including fences and water developments. Access roads should be watered or surfaced with magnesium chloride to eliminate dust and damage to vegetation.

29. Paint all production equipment Juniper Green to blend with and mimic the surrounding vegetation.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

NAME OF PREPARER: Tamara Meagher 7/15/04

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline P. Hollowed 7/15/04

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 7/15/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of the location of the proposed action.

CO-110-2004-068-EA 27

Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2004-068-EA